Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland News to the churches • 29 January 2016 • Volume 121 • 2

The keys to our homes . . .

by Bert Smit, CEO of ADRA-UK

'If you reach into your purse or pocket, chances are that you will find a bunch of keys. What do these keys mean to you? A colleague who recently returned from the Middle East described visiting the refugees there in their tents, shacks and other shelters. He noticed that they all had bunches of keys hanging up in these temporary dwellings. When asked about the significance of these keys they said, "These are the keys to our homes. We want to go back one day. We want to put them into the locks and enter our homes once again!" That is what it means for millions of people who are currently internally displaced or refugees in another country. They want to be back home."

Our television screens are frequently filled with the images of people desperately attempting to land on Europe's shores; slowly walking westwards across the continent; or surviving under desperate circumstances in makeshift camps. Most of them have reluctantly left behind a home for which they often still carry the keys.

In their eyes you can read the sadness of leaving behind their homes, their family, their homeland — with nowhere else to go but to simply walk forward in the hope of finding a place of refuge.

Just imagine if you were literally in their shoes, forced to leave everything you have behind and stumble on with the hope that somewhere, someone will take pity on you.

The ADRA offices in Europe are working together to, where possible, assist these migrants as they make their way across their territory. Other ADRA offices are helping them settle in a host country by providing them with language courses and other essential assistance.

With your support, here at ADRA-UK we have been able to focus our help on financially supporting the work already being carried out for migrants in Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and Lebanon.

Many refugees – if they could – would immediately go straight back to their homes; their jobs; their schools; and their former lives. But since that is impossible at present, we have a duty of care towards them:

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' (Matthew 25:35-36, NIV.)

Please remember ADRA as it seeks to define the best ways to respond to this crisis.

* Introduction by James Asthleford, ADRA Canada Director









In search of a strategy . . .

On 18-19 January, ADRA representatives and church leaders from across Europe met in Zagreb, Croatia, to discuss how we can collectively respond to the present migrant crisis. Prominent on their agenda was the need to determine, a. what ADRA's response to this humanitarian crisis should be; b. what the role of the local congregations should be as refugees begin to settle within their communities; and c. how to provide spiritual leadership to our members as they struggle to harmonise their Christian responsibility with the social fears and prejudices that are often associated with a large influx of refugees.



Help us keep refugees warm this winter :

Donate online at adra.org.uk/projects/emergencies/





Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, RGN, RM, RHV, MSc Health Ministries Director, BUC

Going natural Part 9c – Exercise as medicine

Imagine going to your general practitioner with an ailment, hoping to leave with a prescription to take to your local pharmacy. Instead, on the prescription pad the doctor writes: Exercise! Would you think it strange? Well that idea is far from strange, as exercise has become a 'remedy' currently prescribed to a number of patients in various parts of the world.

In 2007, the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) co-launched a health-based initiative titled: 'Exercise Is Medicine' (EIM). Since its inception EIM has expanded globally, with seven regional centres and 43 national centres across the globe.1

The EIM programme identifies these three key aspects of its work:

- Assessing physical activity levels of each patient at every clinic
- Providing patients with an exercise 'prescription' that can be tailored for their specific disease conditions
- Referring patients to a trusted network of local evidence-based Physical Activity (PA) programmes led by qualified professionals

Using exercise as a prescription for well-being is integral to some diabetes recovery programmes. In his book, titled, *Goodbye* Diabetes, Dr Wes Youngberg, founder of Youngberg Lifestyle and Nutritional Medicine in Temecula, prescribes exercise as a key element in reversing diabetes. In an interview with Vibrant Life

published in November 2013² he explains the process:

'Exercise can have a huge impact on blood sugars, when it's employed wisely, meaning, the right amount of activity at the right time. Many people with diabetes have plenty of glucose energy stored up in their cells, but that energy never gets a chance to get burned up, because they don't exercise optimally. The cells are "resistant" and won't allow insulin to usher in any more energy, because the cells consider themselves "full" already, thus causing sugar to stay in the bloodstream, which is high blood sugar. One of the most powerful things you can do to lower and manage your blood sugars is to exercise immediately after a meal, which can reduce sugar spikes by one to three points for every minute of light to moderate exercise.

A number of lifestyle intervention programmes have exercise as a key component of their health recovery and maintenance plans. Programmes such as the General Conference Health Ministries Department's CELEBRATIONS and Florida Hospital's CREATION Health have excellent evidence-based materials on the healing power

Challenge yourself to move more and watch the results. Exercise guidelines can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/ publications/uk-physical-activity-quidelines.

Good health!

http://www.exerciseismedicine.org/ ²http://www.readperiodicals.com/201311/3125080211.html

editorial

Someone recently sent me a snippet of 'internet' wisdom regarding the importance of nurturing a positive attitude towards life. It set me thinking about whether I am always as positive as I ought to be about life and its challenges.

I seldom escape unscathed from such reflection, and this time round I was forced to quietly admit that I do have my occasional moments of 'glumness' and negativity! How about vou?

A definition . . .

How would you define a 'positive attitude'? Catherine Pulsifer, who regards herself as 'an inspirational writer', defines it this way: 'My definition of a positive attitude is a simple one: Looking for the good in all circumstances.'1

I think that Ms Pulsifer makes a very good point – one that Christians can readily take to heart. After all, we would surely all benefit from interpreting those things that are said and done to us in the most positive way possible – even if that was not the other person's intention! This won't be easy for many of us. For it will require the suppression of that very human inclination to attribute ulterior motives to the words and deeds of those around us.

'Looking for the good in all circumstances' will also require us to quickly see the potential in disappointing situations, missed opportunities and failures. For example, instead of glumly brooding over a day's bad weather, why not rename it as a 'duvet and cuppa' day and enjoy the chance for a good read?

A more creative way . . .

Realistically speaking, 'looking for the good in all circumstances' is definitely a more creative way of living. It involves the daily cultivation of a passion to derive the very best from life, as often as possible. But developing a more creative way of living doesn't come naturally to all of us, which is why I like Keith Harrell's observations on the matter: 'One of the most

Are you 'ready for anything'?



Julian Hibbert

important steps you can take toward achieving your greatest potential in life is to learn to monitor your attitude and its impact on your work performance, relationships and everyone around vou.'2

Plainly put, our attitudes to life need to be *monitored* and carefully *managed* if we desire to be effective. How good are you at this? Do you give your attitudes a second thought? Harrell again: 'In truth, people generally don't have a high level of attitude awareness. . . . That is a mistake because attitude is everything. It governs the way you perceive the world and the way the world perceives vou.'3

It would be a better place

Yes, our world would certainly be a better place if we all followed the advice of Catherine Pulsifer and went 'looking for the good in all circumstances.' There are some situations, however, that may need a bit more than a buoyant, positive attitude to change life's 'lemons' into 'lemonade'.

Let me illustrate by using a hypothetical situation. A middle-aged woman is diagnosed with breast cancer and the prognosis is not good. She undergoes surgery and a series of follow-up treatments that leave her drained and despondent. Then, while she is at her most vulnerable, she suddenly discovers that her husband is having an affair with his secretary; and he wastes little time in moving out to begin life with his new love, leaving her dying, desperate and alone.

How is she to process this cruel change of circumstances? What earthly prospect of joy, hope or happiness could possibly lie before her? What will we tell her when we call for a brief visit: 'to look for the good in all circumstances'?

The harsh reality illustrated by our 'hypothetical' woman is that life sometimes plunges us into a sea of hopeless and unbearable circumstances with no visible hope of reaching the shore.

Life's toughest lesson

Could this be an example of life's toughest lesson: learning to bear the unbearable? When circumstances can no longer improve . . . only get worse, the only attitude left for us to pray for is the strength to bear the unbearable!

This is an attitude we see so graciously displayed in the life of Paul. He seems to have suffered years of ridicule, persecution, degenerating eyesight and personal privation, all of which formed in him this attitude of being able to bear the unbearable:

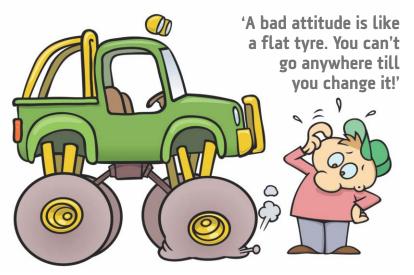
'. . . for I have learned to be content, whatever the circumstances may be. I know now how to live when things are difficult and I know how to live when things are prosperous. In general and in particular I have learned the secret of facing either poverty or plenty. I am ready for anything through the strength of the one who lives within me.' (Philippians 4:11-13, J.B. Phillips New Testament.)

Never alone!

It would seem to me that Paul discovered the true secret of bearing the unbearable. The humble. trusting believer is never alone, even under the cruellest circumstances:

'Among the Greeks and Romans it was customary to allow an accused person the privilege of employing an advocate to plead in his behalf before courts of justice. . . . But when Paul was summoned before Nero, no man ventured to act as his counsel or advocate: no friend was at hand even to preserve a record of the charges brought against him, or of the arguments that he urged in his own defence. Among the Christians at Rome there was not one who came forward to stand by him in that trying hour.'4

But he was not alone. He did not bear the unbearable on his own – neither will any of us who claim this promise: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5, ESV.)



http://www.wow4u.com/attitudep2/

^{2 & 3}http://www.success.com/article/why-your-attitude-is-everything#sthash

⁴The Acts of the Apostles, pages 492-3

inspiration

What do ministers do when they retire?

by Geraldene Farmer. NEC Communication Director

The question was posed to a group of retired ministers and Bible workers at a recent retirees' retreat sponsored by the Ministerial Association of the North England Conference. The varied and interesting responses shed new light on the lives of retired ministers and revealed that retirement is anything but a time to slow down for some intrepid saints.

For energetic souls like Pastor Melvyn Ellis. retirement is awash with renewed enthusiasm and unusual opportunities to minister. Despite retiring three years ago he is still very active in ministry. So active, in fact, that he is part of a community walking group and also plays badminton three times a week (his wife thinks twice is enough). He makes no secret of his religion while in pursuit of his sporty lifestyle and has become affectionately known as 'The Manic Vicar' by his 'new' friends. He continues to preach regularly, including in non-Seventh-day Adventist churches. In addition to holding weekly Bible studies in his home he also gives Bibles away at shopping centres and says, 'Talking to people is wonderful. People out there are interested. despite what they say. When they get to know you, it's a different matter.' He quoted one contact who now regularly confides in him as saying, 'With Melvyn I feel safe to talk.'

Talking about his weekly Bible study group Pastor Ellis enthused, 'Since we've retired we have had some thrilling experiences in our own home, with three people being baptised as a direct result of the Bible studies being held in the home.

Pastor Adrian Broome finds himself doing more witnessing now than when he was a minister in full-time employ. Between taxiing people to and from hospital and doing hospital visitations he still finds himself in the pulpit on a regular basis. He has been impressed with the courage shown by some non-believers when faced with bad news. like being told that they or a relative have only a few weeks or months to live. He feels blessed to be able to help them 'finish off matters'. His wife Erlise (65) still teaches at Harper Bell School four days a week, and life is still very hectic. despite retirement

David West retired in 2006, and likens his local gym to a church. He said, 'It's just like a church. Some people are friendly; some are not friendly. It's fascinating getting to know people personally and to share the privilege of knowina Jesus.

Retired Bible worker, Icilda Mardner, runs a

senior citizen club and has had someone baptised from this club. She tells of one of the members, a Jehovah's Witness who says, 'I want to go to that city that Icilda sings about -I want to go there.' She is enthusiastic about her current ministry activities and still regularly goes out to do Bible studies with Pastor Nicholson. She attended with her husband and acknowledged that she 'could not do all this without him' and that the passion for ministry still burns. They love teaching their grandchildren about Jesus

while their parents are at work. Providing one of many lighter notes during this session, well-loved veteran, Pastor Massey, could not remember which church he retired from but he did remember that he put on a suit and tie on his first day of retirement. He was forced to concede that he had not retired in his mind when confronted by his wife's bemused question, 'Where are you going

It was clear that, despite retirement, the desire to be useful and to keep on finding opportunities to share the Good News remains the greatest joy for most. One minister summed it up like this: 'All of us need a fresh vision of what God can do through us. My greatest joy is to experience the thrill of knowing our Lord personally, and to be able to gently share Him with others.

Speaking to the small group of ministers and their spouses. Ministerial Association Secretary, Pastor Richard Jackson drew from the thread running through all the stories shared and concluded that. 'Whatever God has called you to do - you are still doing.

He reminded the group of the words of Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV): 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.' He continued, 'When

you were pastoring you only had a certain territory. God has widened your territory and you are touching the lives of people whom you have never touched before.' In this context he urged retirees not to 'throw in the towel' because they had retired, but to wait upon the Lord, who places each one where He wills. He shared further, 'Know that you are not working for an organisation, but for God,' and that they should 'grow wherever you are planted and continue with the ministry God has called you to.

The purpose of the gathering was to thank retired ministers and their spouses for their service over the years, to acknowledge their contribution and to recognise them as valuable resources for ministry in our churches. This event provided an opportunity to do this in a tangible way when the retirees were each presented with a Long Service Award from the Ministerial Association. It is hoped that churches around the conference will recognise the value of the knowledge and experience of senior retired ministers and Bible workers and treat them as a resource within their congregations.









Chelmsley Wood's coffee morning

On Sunday 8 November, Chelmsley Wood Church held a very special Macmillan coffee morning, which included live music from Simply Praise, Alex, violinist Okantan Aveh, Christina Hoskins and DeAndre Hoskins. There was also a talk by Diane, the leader of 'Breast Friends' (a group of cancer survivors); a talk from nutritionist Rita Caines; and a demonstration of how to make healthy, tasty snacks.

Kate Harris, who organised the event, contacted local businesses around Chelmsley Wood for donations, and the response was amazing. There were contributions from the local gym, two chip shops, three hairdressers, two butchers, Asda, Morrisons, the Lush shop, Harvester, Frankie and Bennys, Nando's and many more. Church members also made and donated cakes, sweets, hot chocolate and much more. Everything was then put onto the 'Make me an offer' table where everyone made offers on items until the table closed at 2.45pm, when the last offer was accepted.

The event was closed by the local ukulele band, who got everyone singing and 'rocking' together. And how much did we raise? £450!

Aberdaron

Adventist

Aberdaron Advent Campsite 2016 Summer Staff

Volunteers required for the summer of 2016.

Ten maintenance team staff required for nine weeks. Food and board provided along with a monetary allowance.

Please post your CV to: Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8BT or email it to: enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com

Closing date for applications is 21 February 2016.





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01923 893461 Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm

Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm, Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays **0207 7236849**

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Ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? In each issue I'll be hosting Q & A in an effort to answer them.

'Must young people in our churches wait to be baptised before celebrating the Lord's Supper?' Pastor Derek C. Clothier

Thank you for your question, Pastor! In your letter you proffer the following Ellen White quotation: 'Christ's example forbids exclusiveness at the Lord's Supper. It is true that open sin excludes the guilty. This the Holy Spirit plainly teaches. 1 Cor. 5:11. But beyond this none are to pass judgement. God has not left it with men to say who shall present themselves on these occasions. For who can read the heart? Who can distinguish the tares from the wheat?"

This implies non-exclusivity, which is further reinforced by Ellen White: 'There may come into the company persons who are not in heart servants of truth. . . . They should not be forbidden. . . . Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and of Judas.'2 Reflecting this, our practice of 'open communion' is defined in the Church Manual as the following: 'All who have committed their lives to the Saviour may participate.'3 This encompasses baptised Christians from all Christian denominations, allowing each person to 'examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup' (1 Corinthians 11:28, KJV): with the proviso that whosoever does so 'unworthily' shall be accounted 'quilty' and incur 'damnation' (1 Corinthians 11:27, 29, KJV).

Having said that, if baptised members of other denominations can participate, may non-baptised youth in our churches do so too? In answer to that guestion, the *Church Manual* states in the next sentence: 'Children learn the significance of the service by observing others participating. After receiving formal instruction in baptismal classes and making their commitment to Jesus in baptism, they are thereby prepared to partake in the service themselves.⁴

Ángel Manuel Rodríguez of the Biblical Research Institute offers three plausible reasons for this.⁵ First, 'The foot-washing service assumes that we have experienced the full washing of the body in baptism (John 13:10; cf. Heb. 10:22).' Second, since the ordinances themselves are merely symbols, they would be worse than useless without a proper appreciation in the mind of their recipient of what they symbolise: 'The phrase, "do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19) is integral to the celebration of the ordinances and requires a clear understanding of the death of Christ (1 Cor. 11:24, 25). Finally, as Rodríguez points out, 'Children who have grasped the significance of the saving power of the death of Christ are ready not only to participate in the ordinances, but also to be baptised. . . . Instead of allowing them to participate in the ordinances before they are baptised, baptise them!

¹Evangelism, p. 277; also The Desire of Ages, p. 656

³Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, 18th Edition, 2010, p. 122 ⁴Ibid., emphasis supplied 5https://www.adventisthiblicalresearch.org/materials/church/children-and-lords-suppe

ion you'd like to see answered in Q & A? Why not send it in to us at: press.org.uk? If your question doesn't appear in the next issue, don'

deaf ministry



BUC launches Deaf Ministries Strategy

by Sharon Platt-McDonald (BUC Director for Health, Disability Awareness and Women's Ministries)

f you were to take a moment to ask yourself how 'accessible' your church was, what would your answer be? Could you say that it was 'accommodating' of those with a disability? What about those who are deaf or hearing impaired? Would a deaf person feel 'at home' in your church and experience reciprocal communication at a level that would enable them to participate meaningfully?

These were some of the questions addressed on Sunday 22 November 2015 at the launch of the BUC Deaf Ministries Strategy at Manchester South. This was a collaborative initiative by the British Union Conference (BUC), SIGN (Signing to Invite the Gospel to all Nations) Ministries, the South England Conference (SEC), the Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA) and the North England Conference.

In attendance were 80 enthusiastic people eager to glean as much information as possible to take back to their churches in order to further enhance their communication with the deaf community. Two external professional signers interpreted the entire event, thereby emphasising the importance of providing the right level of interpretation for our deaf members.

In his devotional Pastor Paul Lockham emphasised the importance of taking time to understand those with a disability and making the effort to effectively communicate with them. He shared his experience of learning to finger spell (a simple form of sign language) in order to communicate with a deaf family who attended his church many years ago and the positive results that ensued.

A key aspect of the event was the opportunity to hear directly from members of the deaf community. This was achieved during the Deaf Voices panel, during which eight deaf members had the opportunity to share their 'deaf experience', primarily in the context of church life. Several spoke about the challenges they encountered with regard to the lack of signers for the services and how isolating this was for them. Others spoke of the negative impact on their spiritual life as they were unable to participate in church services or enjoy a 'discussion' in Sabbath School and subsequently opted to stay at home. Even more sobering were the reports of deaf members actually leaving the Seventhday Adventist Church to attend Sunday churches with weekly signed services.

It was difficult to listen to such painful

recollections of the struggles these dear members endured because our churches were not equipped to meet their needs. However, this segment ended on a positive note as several members of the panel expressed appreciation at the efforts made to provide signers for their churches. Equally encouraging were the suggestions voiced by the deaf members on how the church could better satisfy their needs.

The programme included interviews with Pastor Gill and Garfield McIntosh (ministerial student), who shared their personal experiences of hearing loss and its effect on their ministries.

The key objectives of the BUC Deaf Ministries Strategy are to:

- Promote deaf awareness among the membership.
- Address the needs of deaf people in our churches.
 Ensure our services are relevant to and
- inclusive of deaf people.Enable the Gospel to be shared with the deaf community.

In reflecting on the event Grace Walsh (NEC Disability Awareness Director) made this perceptive comment: 'The success of the day was embedded in the inclusion of the deaf members in the programme.'

Throughout the day a number of presentations were made by individuals, churches and ministry groups on how they were currently attempting to meet the needs of our deaf members. Michele Gordon (Lewisham Deaf Ministries), Herminia Matthieu (Hackney Deaf Ministries), Anne-Marie Gerreyn (Welling Church) and Paulo Dias (Scottish Mission) shared the work they have been doing to develop this ministry in their churches. This provided insight for those from other churches wishing to develop a similar ministry.

ASNA and HANDS (Helping Access Now for the Deaf) representatives (Joyce Ugbomah and Ellen Samuel) also spoke about how their organisations were involved with deaf ministry across the UK. They shared useful material which attendees were able to take away with them.

Lorraine Ward, a Disabled Access professional, who is herself a disabled person, gave the keynote presentation, focusing on making our churches accessible for the disabled.



SIGN Ministries, which was instrumental in planning the launch, gave these reflections on the purpose of the day:

'The aim of the day was to give deaf people the opportunity to state their needs and make their own language heard. This proclamation was vitally important as it would be heard at the highest strata of the SDA church body. The final outcome has yet to arrive . . . the acknowledgement that deaf people will be treated equally with hearing people and that the right and immediate resources will be found that will enable deaf people to be included within the SDA Church.'

Pauline Mitchell – SIGN Ministries Director and consultant – gave an overview of the work they have undertaken with the deaf community over the past fifteen years to assist the church in breaking down barriers faced by deaf/deaf-blind people. She also outlined the actions our churches need to take in addressing their needs.

The more practical and interactive aspects of the event included a finger-spelling session as a 'taster' to British Sign Language (BSL). Attendees were able to finger spell the alphabet, participate in short choruses, and experience signed hymns and prayers.

Another practical session involved the skits which vividly demonstrated some of the communication challenges deaf members face. This was laced with humour and provided moments of light relief.

My personal assessment of the launch was very positive and I am really excited about the future for Deaf Ministries within the British Isles. One of our main departmental objectives will be the need to secure annual funding for essentials such as BSL training to increase the availability of signed services. This will ensure that our deaf members and visitors can have as full a worship experience as possible at all times.

For more information on the development of the BUC Deaf Ministries Strategy ring the BUC on 01923 672251 and ask to speak with Sharon Platt-McDonald.

Grantham supports 'The Foyer'

Following an appeal for donations of household items to 'The Foyer' to help young homeless people in Grantham, the local church's Community Service Department were able to present a large quantity of goods to Stephanie Waldren, who represents 'The Foyer'. During the morning service on 5 December 2015 she told the congregation of how accommodation and support is given to homeless 16-18-year-olds, some of whom arrive at their door with no belongings at all.

Stephanie thanked the church members for their generous contributions, which numbered over five hundred items, including bedding, kitchenware, toiletries, towels, food and baby clothes, and were fittingly made into a nativity Scene.

SHEBA M. HUGHES, COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY





Fletewood School, Plymouth Head Teacher vacancy:

Due to the retirement of our successful and much-loved teaching head teacher, the governors of Fletewood School invite applications for the position of Teaching Head Teacher, starting with immediate effect.

This is an exciting opportunity for a dynamic and ambitious leader with a passionate interest in curriculum development, who will be willing to build on the school's achievements. The new head teacher will take over a vibrant school offering a well-rounded education.

The governors are keen to appoint someone who will continue to enhance and develop the school and promote its academic results, market it effectively and ensure that the highest standards are achieved in every aspect of school life. At the same time, the new head teacher will need to develop his or her own vision and plans for the future and inspire and engage with pupils, staff, parents, alumni and other members of the school community.

The Head Teacher will be responsible to the Governing Body.

The governors are aware of the challenges which face all independent schools, and are looking for an individual who displays exceptional leadership and staff management qualities as well as an ability to recruit pupils with the highest academic potential in a marketplace that is subject to increasing pressures.

The governors are keen to appoint a person with the ability to work as leader of the school but who will be excited by their role in defining the strategic plan for the future.

Fletewood School prepares students for the 11+ examination and is highly regarded in the local community and by inspectors for its Christian ethos and high academic standards.

Our aim is to provide a holistic education and develop the talents and abilities of every child.

Our school community is looking for someone who:

- Has a clear vision and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist ethos and the inclusion of all learners;
- Is a practising Seventh-day Adventist;
- Has a strong personal faith which will enrich the life of the school;
- Has proven leadership skills that encourage, support and challenge the work
 of the school and bring innovative ideas to further improve our practice;
- Is an effective communicator with good interpersonal skills who will support and inspire pupils, staff, governors and parents/carers;
 Has evidence of excellent classroom practice across the curriculum;
- Has experience of working with both pupils who are gifted and talented and those who have additional needs:
- those who have additional needs;Has a clear philosophy and the ability to put it into practice;
- Is hard-working with a good sense of humour;
- Is willing to uphold the Christian Seventh-day Adventist ethos of the school;
 Has experience in the UK school system and has the right to work in the UK.

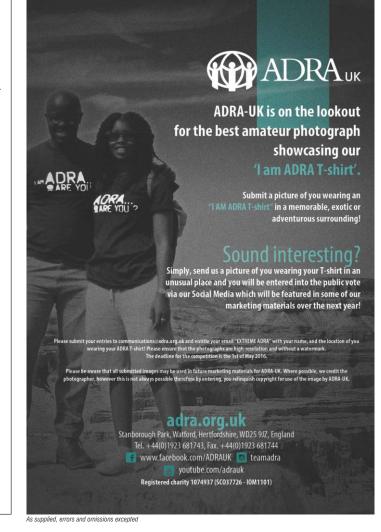
Depending on qualifications and experience, gross salary will be up to ${\mathfrak L}36.816.00$ per annum.

A relocation package is also available for the successful candidate.

If you feel called to join the team in this successful school please request an application form, job description and person specification by either emailing: jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk or writing to Mrs Jacqui Crawford at South England Conference, 25 St John's Road, Watford, Herts. WD17 1PZ.

Application deadline: 31 March 2016.





baptisms

Tottenham's 'Generation to Generation' outreach

From 31 October to 14 November 2015 Dr Kirk Thomas (SEC Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Director) conducted the 'Generation to Generation' evangelistic series at the Tottenham church.

The series served as an in-reach opportunity to impact the youth, inspiring them to take over the legacy of our message in their generation. The campaign also served as an outreach opportunity to reclaim and restore former or lapsed members, and those still in the 'valley of decision'.

Pastor Valentine Roach, the host pastor, nightly welcomed a full audience to the meetings, which included many youth. They excelled at the nightly guizzes that were based on the previous evening's sermon and walked away with the first three positions when the winners were announced

The series concluded with the baptism of eighteen people, two of whom came from Ethiopia, and one of them expressed the following:

'I see my baptism as a confirmation of my day-to-day walk with the Lord and a crown on my mother's persistence. What matters now is my example to others.

One of the younger candidates, who had been contemplating baptism for two years, said: 'In this baptism, I have consciously given my life to the Lord."

What a wonderful result for preacher, pastor and congregation! DOREEN I. FRAY (COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT)



'The rain came down and the floods came up . . . '

On 12 December 2015, despite severe flooding, road closures, and detours, five young people made their way to the Newmarket-on-Fergus church, County Clare, determined to be baptised. These were the first Seventh-day Adventist baptisms in the West of Ireland to be held indoors and in a specially constructed baptismal pool erected in the Pathfinders' barn on the church grounds.

Pastor Tony O'Rourke welcomed the baptismal candidates, who had travelled from Longford and Galway. There was Choma Ojeani, a mother of four children, who found Galway Seventh-day Adventist Church two years ago. 'I was seeking the true church of God that keeps all of God's commandments,' she said. While doing an online search she discovered the principle of Sabbath-keeping. 'Once I discovered the Sabbath,' she reports, 'I had to keep on looking, and I was thrilled to find the nearby Galway Seventh-day Adventist church. I had to join. I took baptismal studies, and now I am so happy to be baptised."

Nevin Appiah is a secondary school student in Longford. Pastor Tony O'Rourke describes him as 'a very enquiring young man who likes to find answers which are true to Scripture.

Dorothy Yeboah is a talented third-level student, and she was joined in baptism by her brother Goodwin and her sister Lordina, both of whom are secondary school students. The Yeboah family are talented singers who love to share their gift to bring joy to others.

Liam, a visitor who attended the ceremony, said, 'I was struck by the young people as they gave their testimonies. I have never seen such sheer joy on the faces of young people as I have seen today, and without alcohol or the other things young people get into.

With the exceptionally heavy rainfall this winter, the West of Ireland has become an island within an island. Its green fields are now transformed into hundreds of mini lakes. 'But,' says Tony O'Rourke, 'the house of the Lord still stands firm in the West.

Baptism in Salisbury

On 14 November 2015, Salisbury Church Plant celebrated the baptism of two of its newest members, Jay Flaminiano and John Hutchins. Jay said afterwards, 'The moment I started to search for the truth. I felt like I became hungrier and thirstier for it. God has sent people to help me understand my purpose in life. That purpose is to live with Jesus Christ our Lord. One particular reason for making that decision to be baptised is that the Holy Spirit touched my life, saying that I have responsibility as a follower of Christ.' While John recalled that, 'I became a Christian in 1986 and a few months later was baptised in a Sunday-keeping charismatic church. I could "speak in tongues" and play a tambourine but had not had a genuine conversion experience. I thought that baptism was simply a declaration of my new-found faith. Through personal Bible study I have come to understand that baptism is a symbol of our being united with Christ in His death and resurrection and that our lives must reflect this. I was re-baptised at the church in Salisbury and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I will try to live by the principles of Romans Chapter 6.

JUDY MARSHALL

Couple united at **Milton Keynes**

On Sabbath, 5 December 2015, not only was another member added to the church family of Milton Keynes Central, but a home was united in the faith too. Three years earlier, Raquel Flecknell was baptised; now it was her husband Barry's turn to take the same step. Thanks to the prayers of his wife, her consistent witness to him in the home, Bible studies by Pastor Michael Anim

and, not least, the workings of God's Holy Spirit, he took the step and, through baptism, joined a worldwide faith family over 18 million strong. 'I have.' he said, 'found more truth in the Holy Scriptures. They have revealed to me that there is more to life than just what my eyes can





Stanborough School, an independent Seventh-day Adventist Christian co-educational school with a strong and established academic tradition and family atmosphere, is looking to fill the following vacancies:

> Vacancy: Part-time ICT Teacher Commencement: 1 September 2016 Salary: £16,426

General responsibilities:

• Teach Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 ICT. • Provide learning support to all learners. • Undertake Form Tutor responsibilities. • Participate in all school activities. • Undertake additional duties as required by the Faculty Leader and Head Teacher.

Qualifications

Applicants should have:

• an ICT degree; • a teaching qualification; • relevant experience; and · authorisation to work in the UK.

Closing date: 12 February 2016. Interviews: Tuesday 1 March 2016.

Vacancy: Volunteer ICT Technician Commencement: 10 March 2016 Stipend: £175 per month plus all meals

General responsibilities:

• Provide hardware and software technical support. • Help assess the technical and functional capabilities of existing systems and contribute to the strategic plans of the department. • Maintain the IT Department's asset register. • Administer daily backup of networked data and assist in the restoration of same. • Help maintain the department's intranet. • Undertake such additional duties as required by the IT Manager.

Closing date: 12 February 2016. Interviews: Monday 29 February 2016.

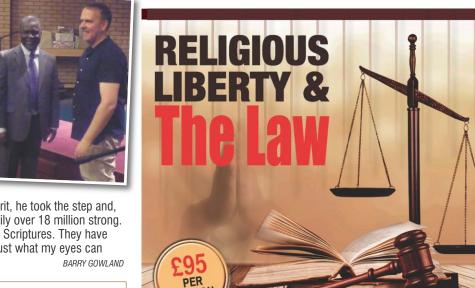
Volunteer Assistant Dean Boarding School (FEMALE - 1 and MALE - 2)Commencement: 1 August 2016 (for 12 months) Stipend: £175 per month plus all meals

General responsibilities:

- · Caring for all sick boarders and coping with any emergencies or accidents in the boarding house. • Routine organisation of all aspects of the physical care of boarders, and the sharing of such with the other Housemaster/Matron.
- Assisting the Housemaster/Matron and resident staff to plan and carry out a varied programme of activities for boarders after school and on weekends.
- In an emergency, caring for day pupils is required. Strongly supporting the Housemaster/Matron in maintaining a safe, pleasant environment for boarding pupils. • Maintaining a warm, friendly atmosphere in the boarding school so that parents, governors and school visitors feel welcome.

Closing date: 12 February 2016. Interviews: Wednesday 2 March 2016.

Interested applicants for the above vacancies should contact the PA to the Head Teacher for the application package. Email: mmumbo@spsch.org. Tel: 01923 673268.



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND

SPEAKERS INCLUDE: NECLU BURCEA (GC Associate PARL Director), SIMON MCCROSSAN - Head of Public Affairs (Evangelical Alliance), DR BRIGHTON KAVALOH (SEC PARL Director), IAN SWEENEY (BUC President), DR RICHARD DE LISSER (SEC President) & CECIL PERRY (Former SEC & BUC President)

Info & Registration | Tanya Grant | tgrant@secadventist.org.uk | 01923 232728

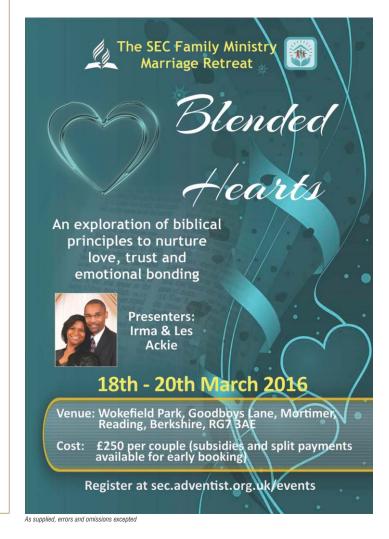


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BETTY O'ROURKE



More exciting than the streets!

Quintina (also known as Tina) grew up in a Baptist household, though as a young adult she was not a regular church attendee, mostly because she did not understand the Bible.

Tina met and married Phillip Grant, who had been brought up in an Adventist home. As newlyweds they visited each other's church periodically. Eventually Phillip decided he wanted to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Church regularly and he encouraged Tina to do Bible studies with him, patiently explaining anything that she did not understand. For instance, Tina explained, 'I knew about the Ten Commandments, but never followed them. I also knew about the Sabbath, but thought it crazy nonsense until my

husband helped me to realise that it was the day God set in place for us to have a closer relationship with Him.'

'I am now a baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and find church more exciting and rewarding than I ever found the streets. I can honestly say that God has been good to me.'

To God be the glory!



Baptism at Great Yarmouth

'You are now beginning to walk on a journey with God,' were the introductory words of Rio Espulgar as he addressed two young people in the Great Yarmouth church who had decided to be baptised.

Even though it was cold, wet and blustery outside, there was a sense of warmth and togetherness on Sabbath 21 November 2015 as Rebecca Rogers and Johnnalen Wilkinson were baptised. Following the baptism, both these lovely young people were invited to kneel beside the baptismal waters as the writer offered a special prayer for them.

After the service, everyone was invited to ascend to the upper room where refreshments were provided alongside a beautiful cake bearing the words, 'Happy Baptismalday Johnnalen and Rebecca!'

Both these young people have undergone Bible studies with our minister, Rio Espulgar, and his wife Maybelle.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



October 11 2015 was a memorable day for the Wolverhampton Great Brickkiln Street church (NEC) as they celebrated a baptismal service in an atmosphere of reverent efficiency. This was preceded by a Bible series held from 26 October to 10 November on the theme of 'The Search For Truth'. The speakers included Adrian Roberts, Pedro Antonius, Andrew Hazel (local elder) and Pastor Rainford McIntosh. They presented the Word of God in a unique and powerful fashion that was well received by those who attended each evening. At the end of the series there were four precious souls for baptism that day: Nyomi Brown, Anne Yardy Ndlaleni, and Zachary and Ezekiel Lowe.

GBK COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Ladywood rejoiced

On 17 October last year the Ladywood congregation rejoiced at the baptism of Dujaune and Jaisha Lee. All present were impressed at the way in which Dujaune has taken the spiritual leadership in their relationship, and may God continue to bless them together in Christ. GLENDORA LINDSEY



Baptisms at Blackburn

Blackburn Church had a truly blessed Sabbath on 5 December 2015. Not only did they celebrate the final communion service of the year, but they also had an afternoon of baptisms to rejoice over as well!

Alwyn Lunan and Patience Zinyemba wished to recommit themselves to Christ and were re-baptised, as was Cheryl Booth, formerly of another faith group. As well as these from Blackburn, there were two candidates from nearby Blackpool, Doc Robertson and Mary Buchanan, who also joined the church for the first time.

It was such a wonderful day, filled with many blessings despite the cold wind and rain outside.

BEN MARSDEN PHOTO: ROY ZINYEMBA

Baptism in Ipswich

On 5 December 2015, at the Ipswich church, six people demonstrated their love for Christ and their commitment to serve Him by becoming members of the Adventist Church – three by baptism and three by profession of faith, including someone who is confined to a wheelchair.

Over the past year, various members had conducted home Bible studies with these candidates, something Pastor Andrew Davis, who conducted the ceremony, challenged more members to become involved in. It was a Spirit-filled day with friends and family joining in celebration of the wonderful event.

C 100 Marian

'Signs of the times' success

On 7 November last year Watford Town Church concluded the two-week evangelistic series entitled 'Signs of the Times', held by Evangelist Eugene Benjamin. Eight people were baptised.

The candidates were spread over a wide age range, with the youngest being nine and the oldest a man of mature years who was returning to the faith. They were: Kieran Sterling and Kasheka Campbell (the two youngest); Jamie Sterling (Kieran's elder brother); David Pitter; Lindiwe Mashangombe; Joanita Akpai; Linda Sears; and Yaw Jon Oppong (the oldest).

Prior to immersion each candidate expressed a few heartfelt words to the congregation, and some included their favourite Bible texts.

Pastor Balan appealed to those who were moved by the Holy Spirit to accept Jesus and to make plans for baptism in the near future.

Watford Town Church also had the pleasure of welcoming into fellowship Michael Hylton, who had been worshipping regularly with them for several months and has been an active participant in many of their programmes. Praise God for the success of this evangelistic series.

PAMELA COLEMAN



Week of Prayer ends with baptism

Baptisms are always joyous occasions and our annual 2015 Week of Prayer ended with one at Lewisham Church, where we were blessed to welcome four new members to our congregation.

This year we were blessed to have eight of our local speakers deliver the readings – people who know the needs and circumstances of the local congregation.

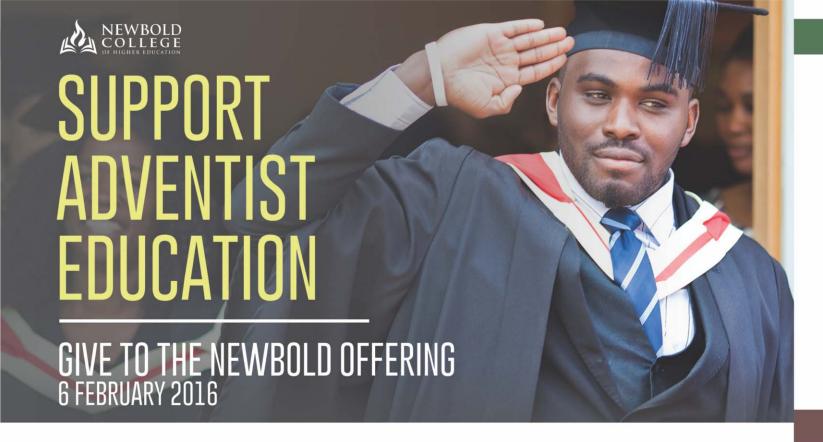
There were services every night during the week, and the members came out not only to hear the presentations, but to engage in the main focus of the week: prayer. To have an entire week of services where prayer was the focus was a refreshing change.



On the Sunday morning we met at 7.30am, which gave us the opportunity to be more leisurely in our time with God in worship, and with each other in prayer and fellowship. This was followed by a hearty breakfast, which was enjoyed by all.

On the second Sabbath, Pastor Otis Lewis preached the morning sermon and held the baptism during the evening service, which was well attended by Lewisham members and the friends, family and acquaintances of the baptismal candidates.





Newbold is devoted to the ministry of Adventist education and the role it plays in winning and guarding souls for Christ. We strongly believe the words of E.G. White, who said that "the work of education and the work of redemption are one".

On 6 February 2016 there will be a British Union-wide offering to support Newbold in our work to further Adventist education. We ask that you continue to pray for the ministry of the College and that, where possible, you give generously.

HOW THEIR TIME AT NEWBOLD CHANGED THE LIVES OF OUR GRADUATES

Studying at Newbold exposed me to the diversity of Adventism in the UK. When I came to study at Newbold I met people from all over the world and was able to benefit from learning with other students from so many different cultures and theological backgrounds. Dr Richard de Lisser, SEC President (Master of Arts in Religion, 1993)





The teaching at Newbold is great! What I learnt at Newbold prepared me for ministry in local churches. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as part of the Student Association, where we did the whole parliamentary procedure, took minutes, attended board meetings, and had a lot of fun. I also played 5-a-Side football - as a student body, we did a lot together. I also met my wife at Newbold. My advice for someone who would like to go to Newbold is that they couldn't go to a

Pastor Douglas McCormac, SEC Executive Secretary (Master of Arts in Religion, 1995)

My Newbold experience helped to affirm my relationship with God, which I found to be the most valuable lesson. I wanted to study psychology and remain grounded within a Christian environment. University years often test your values and reveal your character, especially when studying away from the watchful eye of your friends and family. However, the variety of worship groups and the knowledge that even your teachers will make themselves available to pray with you are some of the things which helped me through. It was at Newbold that I learnt to be spiritually independent and find God for myself. Leah Blenman, Teacher (Bachelor of Arts in Behaviourial Sciences and Counselling, 2007)



WHAT NEWBOLD STANDS FOR

As a College we value spirituality, service, and quality learning & teaching, and strive to provide an environment that nurtures the spiritual and intellectual development of our students and staff.

Spirituality - We encourage our students and staff to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and help them to apply Jesus's teaching in their personal and

Service - We encourage our students and staff to engage in generous service to meet human needs and to participate in activities consistent with the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Quality learning and teaching - We challenge our students and staff to seek; to discover; to inquire; to think; to communicate clearly; and to understand life, learning, teaching and civic responsibility from a Christian point of view.

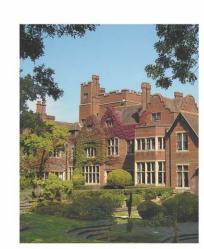
Nurture - We encourage our students to realise their full potential; to live full and joyful lives; and to embrace a balanced lifestyle, including time for intellectual development, physical activity, social and cultural enrichment and spiritual growth.



HOW YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP

By giving generously to the offering on 6 February, or by supporting the College in other ways, you can help further the College's aim to serve as a resource for Church members and young people, and to prepare students for service to the Church through evangelism, mission and ministry. As Adventists we believe education is for eternity, and with your support Newbold can continue to offer quality education in a spiritual setting.

6 February 2016 also marks the 70th anniversary of Newbold's relocation from its previous campus in Warwickshire, to Moor Close and its grounds in Binfield, Berkshire. This year's offering will contribute to the ongoing refurbishment and renovation of the iconic and historic Moor Close complex, a location which serves our students and staff as accommodation and worship centre, houses the kitchens and the cafeteria in Bartlett Hall, and is a source of such fond memories for those who have spent time on our campus. Many utilise Moor Close as a venue for conferences, seminars, workshops, weddings, funerals, anniversaries and other celebrations. Your support will enable us to continue to offer this historic venue as a resource to our students, graduates and British Union members - as well as a way of connecting with our local community.



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT NEWBOLD

The most important support that you can give us is to pray without ceasing, for we are doing God's work and need His blessing for our students. Without His help we labour in

If you know of someone who may benefit from an Adventist education, we would kindly ask that you encourage them to contact us on 01344 407492 or at info@newbold.ac.uk.

We would like to thank you in advance for your prayers and support, and for giving generously to the offering on 6 February.

For more information, visit www.newbold.ac.uk/newbold-offering or contact the College's Principal, Dr John Baildam, at jbaildam@newbold.ac.uk or on 01344 407402.



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Compassion Week

A series of daily programmes consisting of music, talks and interviews affirming compassion as an essential human attitude and value was held at Stanborough Park Church between 9 and 13 November last

As the church's senior pastor, Jacques Venter, observed: 'It is one of our core values. However, it is only a life-affirming value if it is acted out. For us compassion isn't just sympathy for the distress of someone

Joint Women's Ministries Retreat

In the idyllic setting of the DeVere Hotel at Staverton Park, Northamptonshire, 73 women (and seven children) from seven churches gathered for their annual retreat.

On Friday evening the service reflected the weekend's theme. 'Called to Serve', which reminded us that in order to serve effectively we must become other-centred, like Christ, who 'did not come to be served, but

On Sabbath morning, 'The Woes of Jeremiah the prophet' triggered a lively and thought-provoking discussion, which provided the opportunity for us to compare our attitude to service with that of the prophet.

'Called to serve with your health and lifestyle' was the topic for the interactive workshops conducted by Doctor Nicholas Peat, a general practitioner from Northamptonshire.

In a relaxed, professional and sometimes humorous manner, Dr Peat showed that when we apply biblical principles to our health and lifestyle we are better able to serve God and others.

He spoke about the dangers of obesity and its risks, such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and cancer. Most of these diseases, he stated, are largely preventable.

The blessing of good weather made it possible for some to relax outdoors, while others chose to swim or use the spa.

Harley Street doctor presents 'RIP Diabetes'

Over the last three years our church in Great Yarmouth has been busy with health outreach ministry through the medium of public health screening events and vegetarian cookery classes. Last year we presented the Creation Health series from Florida Hospital in a local community hall. As a further step. Pearl Walker, our local Health Ministries leader, wrote a series of health lectures about Jesus and health, entitled, *The Key to Health And Happiness*, with a view to bridging the gap between our lifestyle and the Christian faith. There are seven presentations in the series, with each one gently introducing the audience to a particular biblical doctrine and linking it to an aspect of our health message.

Our church agreed to try out this series in the church rather than a public hall. It was run for eight Sundays to correspond with the regular schedule of our vegetarian cooking classes. Various speakers from our Great Yarmouth church led out, and after each lecture a short interactive else; compassion without action is just this – sympathy. Rather, compassion is what happens when we act on the desire to alleviate their distress.

Civic and religious leaders appeared nightly to be interviewed about their view of compassion and how it affects their lives. These included: the elected mayor, Baroness Thornhill; Richard Harrington, MP; a rabbi; an imam; a head teacher; staff from Garston-based ADRA; and the Watford Workshop, which provides employment for those with

Elected Mayor, Baroness Thornhill, speaking at the Wednesday meeting, described compassion as 'what makes us human – joins us all together. To be truly compassionate you must experience some discomfort or pain, otherwise you are just being kind and generous.'

Later that evening it was the turn of Richard Harrington, Watford's Member of Parliament, who spoke passionately about the work he was doing to select which Syrian refugees currently staying in camps in the Middle East should be invited to seek sanctuary in this country.

According to him the first refugee families would be arriving the following week and he had been careful to find them permanent rather than temporary homes, as they had suffered enough displacement. He was also using private rented accommodation rather than social housing in view of the heavy local demand for that type of home. He also added that refugees from that country were nothing new in the town as there are 20 Syrian doctors working at Watford General Hospital who came to train in this country 30 years ago and never returned to their native land.

Reviewing the week. Pastor Venter commented. 'Compassion brings us together as family, compelling us to be more intentionally involved in each other's lives for the greater good.' JUNE COOMRS



At the final workshop on Sunday, 'Rejection, Hindrance to Service', the writer of this report, a psychologist, outlined how rejection and fear of rejection can be a hindrance to service – but that, through prayer. Bible study and the help and support of others, we can overcome rejection, lead fulfilled lives and serve God and others.

It was indeed an inspiring weekend and these are just a few of the many comments of those who attended:

'I don't want the weekend to end."

'I have been ringing my friends and telling them about the retreat. They say they don't want to miss out next year.'

'It's a shame we have to wait a whole year for another retreat.' LESLENE PEAT-BROWN

discussion period was followed by a healthy lunch and the opportunity to socialise with our visitors.

We launched the series on 1 November 2015 with the help of Dr Chidi, one of Europe's leading lifestyle doctors. His Harley Street practice has helped people from all over the world. Many who wanted to be cured from their diabetes in particular filled our small church. The series continues, and, although we now have a smaller audience, we do have some new visitors with whom we aim to make friends as we help them towards a better, more promising and healthier direction in life. PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER



What a difference a week makes

Our pastor, Dr Patrick Herbert, has had a burden to grow our prayer meeting. So, in line with our strategic plan and the fact that the annual Week of Prayer is an opportunity to involve more members in the prayer meeting experience, Camp Hill's members and visiting friends were treated to a week of Spirit-filled messages from Dr Gene Michael Donaldson, senior pastor of the Capitol Hill church in Washington DC.

Dr Donaldson is a former NEC Camp Meeting speaker – and a vibrant, dynamic and thunderous preacher, at that. His messages made each individual think about their own standing with the Lord, especially in light of current events.

Each evening the church was filled with young and old, and it was a blessing to see the youngest member of the praise team, two-year-old Cienna Rey, leading out in song. Children who would normally be doing their homework during the evening were in church seeking the Lord in

It was also moving to hear the members lifting up their heartfelt prayers before God during our allotted prayer time. Pastor Herbert had



encouraged the members to recognise that this was not to be a rushed

At the end of each evening individuals responded to invitations for prayer by Dr Donaldson, and a number of decisions for baptism and recommitment to Jesus were made.

NATAILE SUTHERLAND



Leeds Central's 2015 investiture

The investiture took place on 31 October 2015 with the theme of the year being, 'Let Your Light Shine'. All Adventurer club members were invested (32) as Eager Beavers, Busy Bees, Sunbeams, Builders and Helping Hands. Two staff members, Jane Ncube and Unessa James, were invested as Master Guides.

In addition to completing their class curriculum, many club members gained extra awards such as Pearly Gates, Fruit of the Spirit and Prayer Warrior.

In harmony with the club theme. during the year members took part in a number of community outreach activities such as visiting nursing homes with the Community Services Department, and visiting senior church members, where

they ministered in Scripture and song. The club was also involved in collection for the annual ADRA Appeal and various fund-raising activities for the club.

The investiture was conducted by Pastor Hush, NEC Adventurer/ Pathfinder Director.



CK Children's Day

Children's Day in Carter Knowle (CK) Church, Sheffield is always very special and the 2015 programme was no exception.

The theme for the day was 'Destination Paradise', and all of the children's classes, including juniors and earliteens (under the direction of the children's co-ordinator - Mrs Melva Robinson Clarke) threw themselves wholeheartedly into the programme.

It started with the cradle roll and kindergarten singing action songs and repeating memory verses, followed by the primary class, with the poems and songs.

Moses Reid told a story for the adults in the place that is usually reserved for the children's story. It was then the turn of the junior and earliteen classes, who performed the play, 'Destination Paradise'.

Two of our young men – Chinua Munroe and Connor Ferguson – then presented powerful sermonettes based on the theme. The programme ended with a junior and earliteen choir singing the Kirk Franklin song, 'Smile', with the congregation joining them in a rousing rendition of 'When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be' - which was truly the sentiment of every heart.

CK COMMUNICATION TEAM



Farewell at the Mission

On 14 November 2015, Leamington Mission said a sad farewell to Pat and Allan Lanham, who have moved to be nearer their daughter and son-in-law. Ruth Lanham-Wright and Neil Wright.

Pat and Allan are founder members of the Leamington Mission and they will be very much missed, not only for their friendship but also for their dedication and commitment to church work.

Pat's lifelong friend, Hazel Layland, gave a short presentation of how they met on their first day at school and how their mothers became friends. Hazel told how she had brought Pat to church and to the Aberdaron camps, and eventually Pat was baptised at Camp Hill Church in Birmingham, where they both attended. Pat and Allan will be attending the Llandudno Junction church. Our loss is your gain.

The watchman!

On the same day (21 November 2015) that Prime Minister David Cameron vowed to protect the religious freedom of Christians, 1 the Hackney church held its Religious Liberty Emphasis Day. The theme of the day focused upon the watchman in Ezekiel 3:17, whom God had told to watch and give warning to the people of Israel of any impending danger

In his message, the guest speaker, Pastor Cecil Perry, stressed the seriously important role the watchman plays: 'The behaviour of the watchman is important – he is the one who, ahead of time, cries out and gives warning to the people regarding danger from the oncoming enemy.' He also reminded the audience that 'the enemy of our souls is a watchman [too] – but there is no need to be afraid of him or the danger to come, for there is an Eternal Watchman who watches over us, and He has angels who encamp all around us."

Continuing with the theme in the afternoon was guest speaker Neil Nunes, a journalist for BBC Radio 4. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: 'Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.' Earlier in the day, Prime Minister David Cameron, while addressing the charity Open Doors, which offers support to persecuted Christians around the world, said: 'Standing up for religious freedom is a priority of my government. We are committed to promoting and protecting the right to freedom of religion or belief as one of the foundations of human rights.' Such a stance would be welcomed by Christians, as in his presentation



praying before their meal as it could be viewed as offensive to audiences of the show who practised different religions.³

Nunes argued that such cases are not isolated but that there are many Christians – here and abroad – who risk losing their lives for asserting their right to practise their religion according to their conscience. 'We are living in a secular society where we have to be careful what we think, say or do so as not to cause offence,' said Nunes, sadly adding that 'Christians around the world are persecuted for speaking the truth.

DARELL PHILIP (PR, COMMUNICATIONS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, HACKNEY CHURCH)

http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Prime-Minister-David-Cameron-vows-to-protect-religiousfreedom-of-Christians-during-visit-to-anti-persecution-charity-Open-Doors ²http://www. dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1236042/Christian-registrar-loses-sacking-fight-refusal-marry-gay-couples.html ³http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/media/11997169/God-banished-from-Downton-Abbey-says-shows-historical-advisor.html



Harlow's witness

On 3 October last year both the Harlow church and the residents at a nearby care home enjoyed a special experience.

That Sabbath afternoon a number of members, led by Janet Simon, shared the love of Jesus with them. They used instruments and song, including the happy voices of their choir, led by Donny Haldar. This was followed by a short devotion by Dinesh Phasge, one of the elders.

What a great opportunity to cheer the residents with the love of Jesus.

D. D. PHASGE

Dudley's Water Buffaloes to the rescue!

On Sunday 15 November 2015 the Pathfinders of Dudley Church in the West Midlands went 'litter picking' along Tipton Brook as part of their community and environment conservation work. Fly tipping and general neglect of this section of waterway is a serious concern of both the Environment Agency and the Pathfinders of Dudley, who call themselves the Water Buffaloes for 'Keep Britain Tidy'. The Water Buffaloes were asked to adopt Tipton Brook for conservation purposes, and so they did.

Ms Louise North will train the Pathfinder leaders on behalf of Keep Britain Tidy and the Environment Agency, but eventually Dudley Pathfinders will be tasked with keeping Tipton Brook clean on their own. This is all part of a government initiative for communities to take ownership of their local waterways and green spaces.

Pastor Dan Majaducon and Errol Tomlinson (elder) joined the Pathfinders that morning to clean up the brook. This is only the first phase of their work; the

next includes water quality testing on a regular yearly basis and the sending of results to the Environment Agency. Then there will be the removal of invasive species like Himalayan balsam and the reintroduction of native wild flowers like crocuses. After all this there



will be the making and placement of bird and bat boxes, which will involve the Adventurers in the Pathfinder club! Well, the Water Buffaloes' first waterside care outing proved to be a great success as the associated photo shows.



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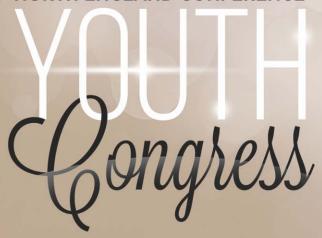
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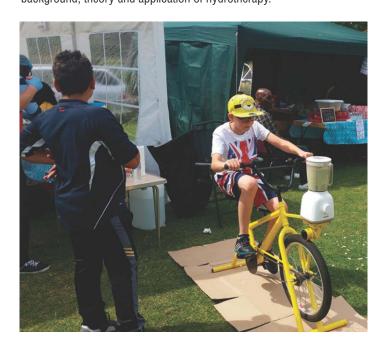
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Gloucester Centre of Hope, Health and Healing

Since the launch of the centre in July 2015 the health team and Pastor Namushi Namuchana have been motivating the members to 'own' the initiative and support its work to educate both the members and the community on the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices. The following is a summary of the centre's activity to date:

- A fortnightly health walk of over five miles has been introduced and participation is growing.
- The community soup kitchen continues to deliver a service to the homeless and vulnerable in the community, and some days over 80 meals are served.
- Since its inception more than 30 people from the community have benefited from the pastoral 'surgery' held every Wednesday. This ministry is there for those who have spiritual and emotional needs, and those who attend are referred to a larger circle of specialised helpers where necessary. One person commented that this pastoral care 'has given me the ability to positively deal with my situation'.
- There is a continuing bi-monthly healthy fellowship lunch, where the health team provide a menu that is based on vegan and raw foods.
 This is an opportunity for both church members and the community to sample new dishes that they are encouraged to try out at home.
- The community allotment run by the centre flourished during the growing season and its produce was shared with the soup kitchen as well as the elderly members of the church. We have successfully bid for £250 of funding to purchase a small polytunnel to grow a wider range of produce and introduce raised beds to make it easier for children and the elderly to participate in the allotment project.
- During the Gloucester church's annual health expo more than 300 visitors benefited from the wide range of health-screening facilities that were available in the tent. Visitors were also invited to try hula-hooping as a fun way to exercise. Another attraction was the smoothie bike, where visitors used pedal power to blend their own smoothies. By the end of the day over 340 smoothies had been served. Healthy vegetarian and vegan food and juices were on sale, along with free literature. The local MP, Richard Graham, visited the tent and took a keen interest in the various activities there; also in the work being done at the centre.
- The Gloucester church arranged for Danny and Charmaine Vierra
 of Modern Manna Ministries to present 'Lifestyle for Excellent
 Health', a series of health seminars and gourmet vegan cooking
 demonstrations. A highlight of their seminar was Charmaine's two
 cooking demonstrations, with over 90 attendees each evening.

Gloucester Church had a subsequent Health Focus week for both church and community. This included Melvina Kirwan's presentations on 'Hydrotherapy for Health', during which she shared the historical background, theory and application of hydrotherapy.







Each evening there was something different relating to health, spirituality, emotional wellness or diet.

Perhaps you could start your own hope, health and healing centre — give it some thought. VARETA BRYAN (HEALTH LEADER)



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Nottingham Central, Centre of Hope

On 13 December 2015, Nottingham Central Church became the first church in the North England Conference to be opened as a centre of health, hope and healing. Sharon Platt-McDonald, Health, Disability Awareness and Women's Ministries Director (BUC), cut the ribbon, assisted by local pastor, Curtis G. Murphy, and Grace Walsh, Health Ministries, Community Services and Disability Ministries Director (NEC).

The centre is a natural development in a church where the members have been busy running health expos, a Tuesday soup kitchen, and an exercise morning every Sunday, all designed to benefit the local community. These activities meet the mandate of the World Church's commission for mission: 'every church a community centre and every member a medical missionary'.

In Sharon Platt-McDonald's statement of purpose address, she enthused the congregation with the following message: 'In a world with so much desolation and challenges, if you knew of a place where you could come and receive a holistic enhancement of your well-being, body, mind, soul and spirit, wouldn't you beat a path to that door? If you knew of a place where you could be made whole, body, mind, soul and spirit, wouldn't you go to that place regularly? If you knew that they delivered what they said on the tin, wouldn't you invite others to come and taste and see?'

The open day in itself was packed with presentations, from a rousing worship service and special music to talks on the benefits of juicing (Sharon Wallace) and protein (Wendy Forrester). These presentations were topped off by a juicing/smoothie and cooking demonstration that treated everyone to some healthy and rejuvenating concoctions.

The goal of establishing a centre of hope, health and healing is to share the holistic Adventist lifestyle with the local community so that they can become better educated about healthier alternatives in diet, exercise and general lifestyle. Keep them in your prayers.

LUNGANI SIBANDA (NECMEDIA TEAM LEADER)









Stoke Newington turns 50

Stoke Newington Church (Stokey, as it is affectionately called) celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last year with a homecoming event that reunited pastors, members and friends both past and present, from here and abroad. The theme for the weekend celebration was, 'Look where God has brought us.'

The weekend commenced on Friday evening and included a section entitled, 'Gone but not forgotten', which highlighted all our beloved members who had passed away. The evening culminated in a sermon delivered by one of Stokey's 'sons', Pastor Stephen McKenzie.

On Sabbath, one of our former ministers, Pastor Wilfred Blake, conducted the Sabbath School lesson. The worship service began with a drum corps march and flag procession led by Pathfinders from both the Stoke Newington and Hackney clubs. The 29 flags featured represented the various nationalities of the members and visitors that worship in Stoke Newington. The former SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, gave a very inspiring tribute to the church. We were also privileged to have the Speaker of Hackney Borough Council, Councillor Sade Etti, and her consort attend the service. The sermon was delivered by Dr Cecil Perry, a former British Union Conference president, followed by the Stoke Newington Mass Choir's rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus.

The celebrations continued with an award ceremony in which those who had given long service to the church were honoured. A concert provided the main entertainment for the evening, with performances from artists such as the Golden Chords and the London Male Voice Choir, to mention but a few.

Sunday was a fun day for all, and it took place under a large marquee erected in our car park. The highlight of the day was a karaoke session with members and guests from every generation giving their renditions of modern and timeless pieces.

Those members who were unable to attend forwarded congratulatory messages which were captured in the fiftieth anniversary commemorative book. This keepsake also included a section on the church's history. The book was distributed over the weekend and was well received by all present.

What a memorable and spectacular event. We give God the highest praise for bringing us this far! FLO SUTHERLAND

Welcome to your 'second' family

Going to new places and meeting new people make for an exciting experience. But settling down in a new place can also be overwhelming. Being thousands of miles from family and the place you all home, on top of the challenge of a new academic or career challenge, can be stressful. But it doesn't have to feel that way if vou are coming to Portsmouth or are there already, for the Portsmouth Adventist Youth Society is a second family to a number of Adventist youth and their unchurched friends. From students at the university to young men and women staying in or visiting in Portsmouth, the group is a great source of love, friendship, spiritual growth and social

The group now comprises over thirty youths from different parts of the world and is growing weekly. The membership consists of students doing all sorts of courses at the University of Portsmouth. Some are pursuing their undergraduate and others their Master's degrees. There are also those who have finished their studies and are working.

We meet every Friday evening for Bible study and congregate at Portsmouth Adventist Church on Sabbath. We arrange social



meetings on Saturday evenings of Sundays, which include board games, movie nights, or simply chilling and chatting about life over some good homemade food.

CHIKONDI LIPATO (STUDENT) AND MPHATHISI NCUBE (AREA 3 YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR)



Break every chain!

There is power in the name of Jesus to break every chain! Released in 2012, the Grammy Award winner, Tasha Cobbs' lead single entitled 'Break Every Chain' spent an amazing 12 weeks at Number 1 on America's *Billboard* music chart. This powerful anthem has brought liberation to countless audiences globally each time it is heard, and for those attending the Visitors' Day at Hackney Church on Sabbath 28

November 2015, this was no exception.

'Break Every Chain' was the theme of the day and superintendent, Maria Vinas, encouraged the Sabbath School that, 'There is power in the name of Jesus to break every chain.' This was followed by an engaging lesson study on 'Jeremiah's Yoke', presented by John Mathieu (elder) who stressed the need to learn God's truth for ourselves in the light of the false messages and messengers that are to come in the last days - just as they did in the time of Jeremiah. After this, a group of talented youth presented a play, 'Slave to Sin', which depicted the often arduous, painful journey of a sinner who along the way overcomes the chains put on him by the enemy by coming to Jesus.

Fitzroy Morris then preached with power and conviction about the chains which had taken hold of the demon-possessed man, emphasising that, 'Sin forms the chains which bind us, and while the church is a hospital for sinners it should not be treated as a greenhouse to nurture sin.' His solution was clear: we must 'come to Jesus as we are because He is able to break every chain that holds us captive'.

During the altar call, as Yemi and Michaela sang the lines, 'There's an army rising up to break every chain', those touched by the Holy Spirit moved forward for prayer. This was followed by various testimonies of how the chains of depression, mental illness, sickness and prison, among others, had been broken. Yes, it became clear to all that 'there is power in the name of Jesus to break every chain!' DARFLL PHILIP PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

University of Essex Adventist Society

Our youth are the church of tomorrow, and it is therefore of the utmost importance that they are nurtured in the faith, especially when they are released from the protection of their parents and into the wider world. The Adventist Society at the University of Essex was put in place to do

such nurturing.

Time and time again we have seen the Lord's support within our small but ever growing society. Harry De Lisle De Bouchard, an atheist turned Adventist, is our prime example of the importance of campus ministries. Having been raised in a household where religion was generally mocked, his interest in God was sparked after being sent to a Catholic school. However, his doubts and questions were never fully answered until, by chance, he was introduced to our Adventist Society on campus. Now, not only is he a baptised member of the church, but also

a member of the executive

committee of both the society and the Area 8 Youth Department. His story, along with many others, is a strong example of just how God is using the campus ministries movement to expand this work at the

The beauty of the society is the spiritual support it provides: every Monday, we have our prayer and Bible study sessions; an opportunity to begin the new academic week with God at the forefront. We also welcome the Sabbath together every Friday evening, giving us an opportunity to talk about our weeks, as well as open the Word once again. Recently we witnessed the baptism of Diane, another one of our members, and we continue to keep her in our prayers.

This is our fourth year of operation and we look forward to what 2016 will bring! FARIRAI MANANGAZIRA



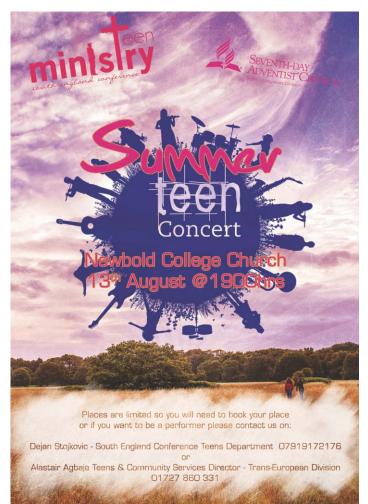


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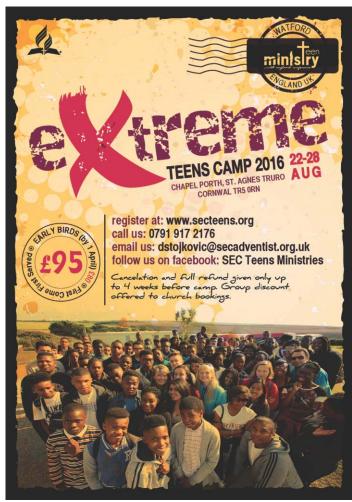
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Smart Love for smart teens

Thirteen young people from Halesowen Church participated in a Smart Love seminar (27-28 October) run by Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma and his wife, Elizabeth.

Before the lectures started I thought that it would be awkward and peculiar discussing topics about sex and dating, because it is not a topic that is openly talked about with the youth. However, we found that the presentations deepened our understanding about sex and dating: especially through the various scenarios we were challenged with and the discussions that followed. It was great that we were able to give our own opinions on how we should deal with each situation.

One of the participants, Dary, said, 'My first impression of Smart Love . . . I thought it would be a normal lecture about sex education, which then made it feel awkward as this isn't something the church would normally talk about . . . sex and dating is something we don't take seriously.' But we learnt a lot from this experience. 'The topics warned us about the dangers of premarital sex and what effects it has on marriage . . . normally we would think sex before marriage is just about STDs, single parenthood and teenage pregnancies.'

Another participant stated, 'Smart Love was a very interesting seminar which taught us how to deal with love, relationships, break-ups and "touchy" situations . . . it was interactive and informative . . . Smart Love opened our eyes to what love truly means . . . we should not become infatuated for that is not love and will only lead to trouble.'

At the end of the Smart Love lectures the young people were very positive, providing comments such as: 'I would recommend it to my friends because it would teach them the right choices to make in life. . . . 'I would highly recommend it . . . I believe that Smart Love will actually help teenagers know the dangers of what they could get into, such as dating at a very young age, or sex before marriage.'

These sessions have definitely opened our minds about sex and dating, and the difference between sex education in school and in the Smart Love seminars is clear – Smart Love puts forward the Christian values, especially about placing God before anything else.

SARAHMAE SUNICO



Dedication

On 14 November at Langley Church, Pastor S. M. Gill dedicated Eliana Violet Masih, child of Grace and Johnny. After the joyous service the Masih family treated the entire congregation to lunch.

ROHEET SUBRAI



CK Community Health Project

The Carter Knowle Road Community Health Project was started in 1999 as a result of the vision of a few members, such as Sisters Roper, Bussue, Tucker, Goodison and Watson. With the aid of the Holy Spirit and the support of numerous others, it has functioned for the last 16 years as a place of warmth, fellowship and friendship for many of the senior members of the church and the community.

The group has links with many of the local health professionals, who regularly come and deliver presentations and garner feedback to assist in better providing for the needs of the community.

Many of the original members, due to age and ill health, remain in an advisory capacity and are now themselves recipients of the project's services. These are now provided by a new and younger group of leaders, who ensure that the centre keeps providing its invaluable service

The group holds an annual fund-raising event to ensure that it continues to run without recourse to the church's finances. Last year, Sunday 18 October was set aside for the sale of a Sunday lunch and crafts, and a bake sale.

This was well supported and we thank God that the sum of £200 was raised towards one of the many good causes that the centre supports. CK COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



The church in Dubai

The Dubai church is a fast-growing one, with seven established branches and an eighth to open in January 2016. Its central service attracts on average five hundred worshippers weekly.

Although open evangelism is not permitted in Dubai the church is able to reach out through its community services.

It recently organised a health-screening programme in its immediate community, attracting about three hundred people from all walks of life.

The event is part of the church's annual campaign to keep people, mainly immigrants, informed about healthy living, and to assist people who may be unable to afford Medicare. This year's theme was 'health reformation: a new start', and it was run by a team of church members comprising medical doctors, dentists, optometrists, nurses and other volunteers.

The medical team provided the usual range of screening services and those needing follow-up were referred to specialist hospitals for further treatment.

Material on health and well-being was also distributed and there was an opportunity for first-timers to enquire about our denomination and what it stands for.

THEOPHILUS GOKAH

obituaries

Sylvia Evers (1920-2015) d. 4 November. Sylvia was the youngest child of Sam and Minnie James. She had two older brothers, and they were brought up as a Christian family in Colchester in Essex. When she was 16 or 17 Sylvia attended an evangelistic series conducted by Pastor John M. Howard, and was baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on 24 July 1938. (We found her baptismal certificate in her Bible after her death, signed very carefully with her full name, Sylvia Gladys James.) Her mother didn't want her to take the step of baptism, so she hid her decent clothes. The young Sylvia knew that her father had an account with the Co-op, so she went to town, selected a new outfit, and went ahead with her baptism. She became a founder member of the Colchester church, and, at the time of her death, was the last surviving member of that group.

After one afternoon service, Florence Evers, another founder member, introduced Sylvia to her son, Frederick. They were married just three days after Mum's twentieth birthday, 10 October 1940, in the Congregational Church. Dad committed his life to the Lord and joined Mum in the Adventist Church during the late 1940s. She faithfully supported him with finding and keeping employment with Sabbath privileges.

with Sabbath privileges.

Over the years Mum and Dad did a great deal to keep the little Colchester church afloat, with her variously holding the offices of church clerk, head deaconess, treasurer and organist or pianist – all of which she took very seriously. They often travelled around East Anglia to support other churches, with Dad singing in his beautiful tenor voice, and Mum playing the piano.

After losing their first two babies, five more children were born to them. Our home was always open to visitors, especially on Sabbaths, with some becoming additions to the family. Included in this were service families from Wethersfield air base. We were blessed with having some from abroad too. One of our frequent local visitors emailed me after I had informed him of Mum's death, and among other things he said, 'Your mum and I had a few differences at times, but no arguments, and I will be forever grateful to the inclusiveness of your whole family, especially during my early teens and married life.'

After a few weeks in hospital, Mum passed to her final rest at her care home, and her family and church friends subsequently gathered at Colchester Crematorium to celebrate her life. Led by Pastor Nathan Stickland, who is married to her granddaughter Emma, we sang hymns that expressed Mum's faith in her Lord. Abigail Davison, Sara Stickland and Ellie Elias, great-granddaughters, sang the children's hymn, 'Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep', and Luke Stickland read a poem, both of which were found in her Bible. Her faith was important to her, and this was obvious throughout her life. We will meet again in the kingdom made new. IOY EVERS-RUSSEY

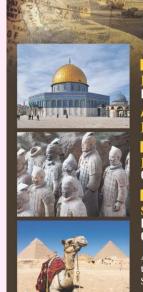
David Aneurin Parker (1919-2015) d. 31 October.

On Monday, 23 November 2015, family and friends gathered in the Shrewsbury church for the funeral of its oldest member, David Parker. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor Peter Sayers, assisted by Pastor John Surridge and Peter Bayliss (elder).

David (or Nye, as he was

known as a child) was born into a coal-mining family in South Wales, the third of five children. Leaving school at 14, he travelled to London, where he worked variously as a pageboy and waiter, eventually becoming the butler to a dowager countess in whose home he met many celebrities. After returning home to convalesce from a skin problem he joined the RAF in 1937. He was posted to Lincolnshire and shortly after moved, with the whole camp, to RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. In 1938 he met his future wife, Olive, who was from a farming family near Shawbury, and they were married in 1941. It was here that their first daughter, Olwyn, was born. Towards the end of the war he was posted to Gloucestershire, where he was demobbed.

David and his family then moved to South Wales, where he had a small business and where their second daughter, Marilyn, was born. After the failure of his business the family returned to Shropshire in 1955, where David



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lived out the rest of his life. Eventually David decided to get the necessary qualifications to begin teacher training, and after graduation he taught in Wolverhampton.

David's grandmother was a devout Christian woman and she made David promise that he would always say his prayers, which he did, in his own way. While still living in South Wales David met a Christian man at work and their lunchtimes were spent talking about religion. After a while, he met an Adventist and began attending the Newport church. After returning to Shropshire, David was baptised in Shrewsbury on 10 March 1956.

David was a man of very strong faith and he shared it with anyone who would listen, and he took witnessing to friends, neighbours and work colleagues very seriously. He was well known in the Mid-to-North Wales area as a regular lay preacher; and formed many lasting friendships with members from the many churches where he preached.

David lived a long and very full life. He loved to play golf, and did so up until the last few years of his long life. He was well cared for in his final years by his daughter Marilyn and attended church as long as he could. He finally passed to his rest on 31 October 2015 and now awaits the call of the Lord whom he served so faithfully.

Messenger

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Suns

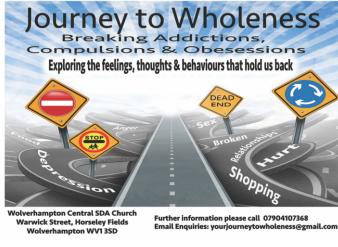
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Over the past two years six members from within the Wolverhampton district have been facilitating the *Journey to Wholeness Programme*, which was developed by the North American Division Adventist Recovery Ministry to equip church leaders and churches to assist those struggling with addictions, compulsions or obsessions. This *Journey to Wholeness Programme* is the only consistently running project within the British Union Conference designed to assist those who have such needs.

The programme is based on the Christian faith-derived twelve-step model, which takes the participant on a journey whereby they admit their powerlessness in the face of addiction; take stock of their personal failings and past wrongs; and then hand over their decisions to a power greater than themselves — God.

The group offers a tight-knit supportive community based on confidentiality and the opportunity to share within a non-judgemental environment.

There is increasing recognition that there is an increasing need in the church for a 'recovery ministry' that focuses on prevention as well as healing.

If you require further information about the delivery of this programme please contact Sharon Platt-McDonald at the BUC office or ring 07904107368. Alternatively, use *yourjourneytowholeness@gmail.com*.

DONNA PALMER (WOLVERHAMPTON DISTRICT OF CHURCHES)